

**PHOTO**  
**Photograph Collection**  
**1860s-c 2005**

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY**

The shoemaking business of C & J Clark Ltd has been in operation in the Somerset village of Street since the early nineteenth century, where it has played a key part in the development of the local community. The Clark family has maintained close links with the factory and village, and this is reflected in the rich archive and artefact holdings of the firm and of the Alfred Gillett Trust. Founded first as a partnership of James Clark and his brother Cyrus, a further partnership between James Clark and his eldest son William Stephens Clark was established in 1872. Followed by a partnership between William S Clark and his brother Francis J Clark in 1889, the private limited company of C & J Clark was established in 1903.

A factory was first established in Street in 1829, which gradually expanded across a large site as mechanisation increased. The firm developed strong international interests in South Africa, Australia, Europe and North America, and other factories were established across Somerset and Devon during the late 1940s and 1950s. Following a re-organisation of the business in the 1990s, shoe production was moved overseas, resulting in the closure of the regional factories in the 1990s and 2000s. In 2010, Street remains the international HQ for the business.

**EXTENT**

Approx. 73 boxes

**ARRANGEMENT**

The photographic holdings are split into two collections, reflecting their differences in provenance: PHO 1-43 (43 boxes of listed photographs and newspaper cuttings, arranged partly alphabetically, from *Courier*). Also approx. 30 unlisted boxes of photographs, arranged thematically by Derek Patch.

**ARCHIVAL HISTORY**

The contents of most of the first photographic sequence originated from filing cabinets in the office of the company newspaper *Courier*, arranged alphabetically. Some photographs also came from various Clark factories - the papers were originally arranged into alphabetical files and stored in Shepton Mallet. In the late 1990s, they were further catalogued and re-boxed by Derek Patch. These were added to in 2001 following a second accession of photographs taken according to issues of *Courier*, as well as stray additions from the *Courier* Public Relations' Office (Dec 2001), the Ilminster factory (2005) and miscellaneous oversize albums (date of deposit unknown).

The second sequence of photographs was accumulated by Derek Patch, presumably from the existing archive collections and from other sources within the business.

## **DESCRIPTION**

### ***Courier* photographic collection, (PHO 1-43, alphabetical sequence, listed):**

- 1-17. Alphabetical files A1-Y1, 1950s-1980s
18. Photographs from and relating to Townsend factory, Shepton Mallet (post 1997 closure), undated
19. Photographs from and relating to Rush Hill factory, Bath (post 1999 closure), undated
20. Photographs from and relating to Millwards of Reading (business, family and employees, and some shops), undated
21. Factories and shops (possibly from *International* house newspaper), 1980s-1990s
22. Footwear, models, style shows, employees etc (possibly from *International* house newspaper), 1990s
- 23-24. 'People' (possibly from *International* house newspaper), 1980s-1990s
25. Clarks Village, 1990s; directors and senior staff, 1990s; shoes, 1980s; photographs (some originals) for *Book of Street*, 1986, taken by Ian White, including: fishhouse at Meare, Petvin monument, Thomas Hawkins, Wootton windmill, Butleigh monument, fulling mill at Northover, Walton, Street churches etc (possibly from *International* house newspaper), 1860s-1990s
26. Photograph albums from Rush Hill factory, Bath (post 1999 closure), mainly of presentations to employees and visitors, 1979-1984
27. Photographs relating to Retail, including of staff, conferences, dinners, shop fronts and interiors, 1950s-1990s
- 28-39. Additional photographs (fully referenced) from *Courier* dating from its first issue in 7 Jun 1957. Arranged by issue (issues 1-310), including some not actually published. Mainly depicts staff, but also Street Fire Brigade, Christmas parties, sporting clubs, dinners, locations in Street, factories, shop interiors and exteriors etc, 1957-1971
40. Employees (including those attending training courses at the Grange) and factories, 1960s-1980s
41. Photographs from and relating to Dowlish factory, Ilminster (closed in 2005), including presentations to employees etc, undated
- 42-43. Oversize photographs and albums, including from Milwards of Reading and Buckingham, Norwich, 1850s-1980s

### **Thematic photographic archive (by box, unlisted):**

1. CJC factory interiors and exteriors, 1870s-1939
2. CJC factory interiors and exteriors, 1940-
3. Buildings etc, Street
4. Street factory plans and interiors; Northover tannery; Avalon Leather Board; 'Outside' factories; Ireland etc
5. Machinery; sculptures; advertising
6. Staff travellers
7. Operatives; outworkers; factory council; Street fire brigade; Boot and shoe union
8. Showcards etc; window displays; publicity modes; style shows/show rooms
9. Family: Bragg, Clothier, Cotterell, Gillett, Impey, Metford, Morland, McLaren, Priestman, Palmer, Reynolds, Sturge, Tanner, Thompson et al
10. Family: Hugh B Clark, Alice Clark, Bancroft Clark, J A Clark; Clark family groups; nutting parties; Lance Clark; John Aubrey Clark; Daniel Clark; J S Clark

11. Family: Thomas Clark; Joseph Clark; Cyrus Clark; James Clark; William Stephens Clark; Helen P B Clark; John Bright Clark; Roger Clark; Francis Joseph Clark
  12. Thomas Beavan Clark; Sophia Sturge Clark; James Edmund Clark; Margaret Clark; Stephen Clark; Nathan Clark; H Brooking Clark; P T Clothier; directors and shareholders et al
  13. Historical documents; royalty – Clarks shoes; Clarks Shoe Museum; factory visitors; visits
  14. Family houses: Greinton; Friends Charity Farm; Overleigh Farm; Hindhayes; John Bull – Cyrus Clark house; Elmhurst; Netherleigh; Greenbank; Millfield; Overleigh House; Metford, Morland, Clothier, Priestman and Tanner houses
  15. Fashion plates; trade cards; shoe makers
  16. Shop interiors
  17. Assorted photographs, including groups of employees, fire brigade, digging the first sods at Redgate and Grove, first aiders, pensioners, royal visit to South Africa 1947, F J Clark, P T Clothier, Margaret Lockwood's visit etc
  18. Street including High Street, Strode School, shops, relief road, no 1 Bowlinggreen, Chicks Cottage (Overleigh), Keens Elm cottages, Ivythorn, Tom Beaven's workshop, Goss House, toll house etc
  19. Exhibitions; style shows; fairs
  20. Factory interiors, 1920s; Street scenes; CJC steam lorry, Pearce family etc (from M Browning and J Pearce); also Clarks boys' clubs, 1920s etc; Redgate factory albums, 1947 (from E Latham and Alec Linton)
  21. Street occasions; floods; Street bands; miscellaneous
  22. Street people including sports people; also people and places non-Street-related
  23. Peter Lord etc – shops; cutting of the first sod at Minehad; curator heel 'story'; miscellaneous shops
- Also unlisted boxes, albums, negatives, prints, engravings and oversize items

### **ACCESS CONDITIONS**

Access to the collection is arranged via advance appointment only. Access to some collections may be restricted due to Data Protection or other restrictions. Please check with the Archivist.

### **REPRODUCTION CONDITIONS**

Usual Alfred Gillett Trust regulations apply. Permission from the Trust and/or owner of a collection is usually required before publication. Copying of some items may be possible on a case by case basis – please check with the Archivist.

### **LANGUAGE**

English

### **FINDING AIDS**

The *Courier* alphabetical sequence of photographs and cuttings were listed by Derek Patch in Dec 1999, and a catalogue is mainly available on the Access database (apart from boxes 41-43, for which a brief paper list is available). The thematic sequence of photographs is currently mainly unlisted although a small part of the collection was listed in 2012-2013.

**RELATED UNITS OF DESCRIPTION**

Other photographs are scattered throughout the archive collections, particularly those associated with specific members of the Clark family.

**PUBLICATION NOTE**

The collection has been used extensively in Mark Palmer. 2013. *Made to Last: the story of Britain's best-known shoe firm*. Profile Books.